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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending October 2, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 30 -- Heading the list of best buys this week are lettuce and grapes of the Thompson Seedless, Ribier, Muscat and Tokay varieties.

Green peppers also remain near the top of the best buy list, although slightly up in price from a week ago. Other good buys in vegetables include green onions, celery, cucumbers, a plentiful supply of squash, and tomatoes, which are a little higher in price than last week.

California-grown apples are in good supply and the price for them is about right, while apples from the Northwest continue to sell at fairly high prices.

Local snap beans are relatively plentiful in supply with the beginning of the San Joaquin valley crop making an appearance on the market. They are a fairly good buy, along with corn, and sweet potatoes.

Fair buys in the fruit line are limited mostly to cantaloupes, small oranges and pears.

Meat slaughter this past week was estimated at from 10 to 15 percent lighter as a result of various factors, including the Jewish Holiday and end-of-the-month inventory period. At the retail level, big bargains were offered in steaks and chops to help clear up some consumer resistance. Fresh pork loin, No. 1 cuts, led the way with a drop of $6.00 per hundred pounds over the previous week. Smoked "skinned" hams and Good to Choice spring lambs dropped $2.00 during the week. Steer and heifer beef remained at the same prices as for last week. However, consumer demand centered on low-cost items such as beef chucks, briskets, and short plates, which sold $1.00 to $2.00 above the preceding week. All grades

of fresh veal and calf declined $1.00 in price.

Butter production was up 2 percent at San Francisco, but met with consumer resistance due to the recent unfavorable publicity given the higher prices. As a result, supplies tended to accumulate, while Grade A (92-Score) and Grade B (90-Score) butter declined 3 cents per pound from the previous week.

Egg production is now more than 20 percent larger than a year ago while total sales are less. Somewhat heavier receipts coupled with lighter consumer demand brought prices down 2 cents on Grade "A" Large eggs, which sold at 70 to 71½ cents per dozen. Medium "A" eggs were 4 cents per dozen lower than last week at 62 to 63½ cents. Consumers centered their interest in the lower priced small eggs, which were unchanged in price from last week at 44 to 46½ cents per dozen for Grade "A" Small and at 59 to 60½ cents for Grade "B" Large.

On the poultry market, supplies of live and dressed fowl were moderate and demand was fairly good. Broilers, both live and dressed weight, were 1 cent lower than a week earlier. Fryers and roasters dropped 2 cents in price, while turkey hens advanced 1 cent per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?
(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending October 10, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 7----Five ways to help! That's what the best vegetable buys can do this week to keep step with the national food conservation measures outlined for the participation of all. To lend a hand are the top-notchers such as corn, cucumbers, lettuce, peppers, and tomatoes.

Also ready to help are the fairly good buys, including snap beans, cauliflower, celery, squash, and sweet potatoes.

Grapes of all varieties are the best buy among the fruits. Small oranges are still a good buy, along with watermelons.

Apples are a pretty good buy -- especially the Newtowns and Jonathans. The Golden Delicious and Red Delicious are still rather high in price.

Lemons are lower but still high-priced, and grapefruit remains high.

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Meats are still coming in for their share of consumer resistance to high prices. Despite the fact that slaughter this past week was held down to the lighter volume of the previous week, choice cuts accumulated in a number of coolers, while the trade concentrated on low-cost cuts such as chucks and short-plates. With practically no mid-western beef arriving, the quality of beef is mostly of Top-Commercial and Good grades. Prices are little changed, although some Good chucks are up $2.00. Generally, supplies of calf carcasses are plentiful, and there are ample offerings of Commercial and Utility veal. Some improvement is evident in the demand for fairly ample supplies of lamb. For the most part, fresh pork carcasses are $1.00 higher and pork loins are up $2.00. But spareribs are $5.00 to $7.00 lower this week. There are some pickled and smoked hams arriving from the Mid-West, but supplies of bacon are reported to be rather limited.

A sharp break in butter prices at all markets this past week reflects a general consumer resistance to prices and greater sales of margarine, as well as lower local prices. Grade A (92 Score) is down 3 cents at 75 cents per pound, while Grade B (90 Score is 9 cents lower at 68 cents per pound.

Egg quotations remain unchanged from last week with Grade "A" Large eggs at 70 to 71½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 62 to 63½ cents, Smalls at 44 to 46½ cents, and Grade "B" Large eggs at 59 to 60½ cents per dozen. With production and supplies heavier and retail sales less, some accumulation of stocks is evident.

Some classes of poultry are in scarce supply while others are liberal. On the scarce side are broilers priced one cent per pound higher alive at 43 to 44¢ (55 to 56¢ per lb. dressed). Very liberal offerings of colored fryers in slow demand are 1 to 4 cents per pound lower alive and 3 to 4 cents per pound less dressed. Alive and dressed, both young hen and tom turkeys are priced one cent per pound lower. Otherwise, poultry prices are the same as for last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending October 17, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14--- Corn, cucumbers, lettuce, and tomatoes continue to carry the "top-notchers" banner in this week's parade of best vegetable buys, while celery and peppers have exchanged places. Celery has moved into the good-buy class; peppers are higher priced and classed as a fair buy.

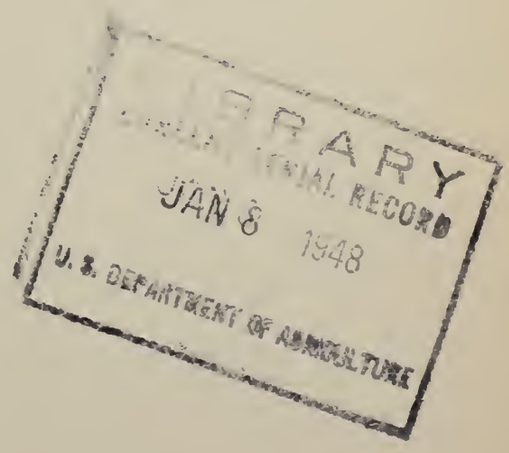
As the fair buys go past, we see that mushrooms and spinach are additions to last week's group of snap beans, cauliflower, squash, and sweet potatoes.

In the high-priced department are broccoli, carrots, artichokes, and cabbage (slightly lower).

Among the fruits, grapes of all varieties and small oranges are the best buys.

Apples are a fair buy, particularly Newtowns.

Lemons are down in price a little but still high, while avocados and grapefruit remain high.



Rolled into one meat ball, this week's situation can be summed up as having a promised slaughter comparable to the last three weeks, a generally slow demand, and prices that tend to be lower. Supplies have not been clearing daily — especially on beef. "Meatless Tuesdays" and the publicity surrounding them are probably reasons for the slow demand. Quality on beef is running mostly to Commercial and Good steer and heifer beef, with cow carcasses of Utility grade and down. As demand slowed down after mid-week, prices turned weaker. There is a fairly liberal supply of veal and calf carcasses available. Calf carcasses are of Good and Commercial grades, while veal offerings are mainly of Commercial and Utility grades. Both lamb and fresh pork had an improved demand after mid-week. There's a wider range of quality and weight on lamb, with a liberal supply of Good and Choice available. Ewe mutton is in narrow demand and little is being offered. Smoked skinned hams are very plentiful, but the volume of bacon is light. As for prices, fresh lamb and mutton are barely holding steady, while fresh pork carcasses are lower.

Top-grade butter is down 4 cents below last week on the wholesale market, with Grade A (92 Score) quoted at 71 cents per pound. Grade B (90 Score) remains at 68 cents. There's very little demand for any grade, while distributors are apparently well supplied with top grades.

Large and medium-sized eggs are 2 cents lower than last week. Grade "A" Large are quoted at 68 to 69½¢ per dozen and Mediums at 60 to 61½¢. Smalls, as well as Grade "B" Large, are unchanged. Heavier production plus anticipation of reduced retail sales because of "eggless Thursday" are causes for lower prices.

Poultry price changes this week are rather minor ones. The biggest change comes on dressed young tom turkeys that are in heavier supply and priced 2 cents less per pound on dressed weights. Other classes do not vary more than 1 cent per pound one way or the other. Broilers continue in light supply, while colored fryers and roasters are quite plentiful.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending October 24, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21—— There's a good supply of vegetables available to lend variety to meals prepared with the food conservation program in mind. Homemakers will find among the best buys green bunched onions, cauliflower, celery, and lettuce.

And there's a host of vegetables in the fair-buy class, namely snap beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, both soft and hard squashes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and two members of the root family - turnips and rutabagas.

Also, broccoli, while still high, is more plentiful and lower priced than it has been. Carrots and cabbage are coming down in price, too.

On the fruit side we find that apples -- especially the Newtowns, all varieties of grapes, and small oranges are the best buys.

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Meat generally is about as plentiful this week as it was last, with the exception that there is slightly less beef. Some prices are a shade lower on beef, lamb, and smoked skinned hams. For the most part, supplies are ample for demand. As for quality, beef is running mostly Commercial to Good; calf carcasses are mainly Good and Commercial; and lamb is to be found in all four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial and Utility).

Butter prices are one cent per pound higher this week, with Grade A (92 Score) quoted at 72 cents per pound, and Grade B (90 Score) at 69 cents. This price rise is the result of higher prices in Eastern markets and a continued strong local demand. But roughly, wholesale prices are 14 cents per pound below those on Oct. 21, 1946, when Grade "A" was quoted at 86½ cents per pound and Grade "B" was commanding 83 cents per pound. A little deeper probe shows us that Western production for the week ending Oct. 16 of this year was 16 per cent above the corresponding week a year ago.

Grade "A" Small eggs are 2 to 3 cents per dozen higher than last week at a quotation of 47 to 48½ cents, while all other grades and sizes are unchanged in price. Production as a whole is 30 per cent larger than a year ago, but there are fewer small eggs available at this particular time.

Less demand for poultry, as the result of the poultryless Thursday, is causing some sag in prices. Broilers and small fryers are one cent per pound lower on both live and dressed weights, while colored fryers are down 1 to 2 cents. On live weights, colored roasters and young tom turkeys are one cent per pound less.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending October 31, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 28--- There are several important vegetables in good supply this week, to help the chief cook of the family in her meal planning. At the top of the list, designated as best buys, are cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, and squash.

Then, to lend variety, there are a number of vegetables which qualify as fairly good buys -- namely, green beans, lettuce, mushrooms, peppers and sweetpotatoes.

There's good news about broccoli and carrots; both are still high, but showing price declines. Cabbage too, is moving slowly along the downward path...in price, that is. However, when it comes to potatoes, onions, tomatoes and artichokes, you'll have to pay more.

As for fruit, apples, especially the Watsonville Newtowns, head the list of best buys. Grapes and small oranges also are included in this category. The grapefruit situation is improving, in that this fruit is more plentiful and a bit lower in price.

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Meat supplies are more than ample for the needs of a generally slow demand, with some accumulations evident, and the pendulum swinging toward lower prices on almost all kinds. On steer beef, there is a somewhat wider range of grades than there has been during the past several weeks and more Top-Commercial is being offered. Cow beef is running mostly to Commercial to Canner grades. A look at the veal and calf carcasses shows us that veal is made up mostly of Utility to Good grades, while calf carcasses are mainly of Good grade. There is also a somewhat wider range of quality and weight on lamb. Fresh pork supplies are a little more plentiful as the result of a curtailment in demand. Smoked skinned hams are plentiful at prices $1.00 to $4.00 lower, but very limited supplies of bacon are holding steady prices.

Grade A(92 Score) butter is up 3 cents per pound this week at 75 cents per pound. Reason -- stronger demand for rather light wholesale supplies and higher prices in Eastern markets. Grade B(90 Score) holds unchanged at 69 cents per pound.

Eggs are in liberal supply, but consumers are showing considerable resistance to high prices. As a result, Grade "A" Large and Medium eggs are priced 2 cents per dozen below last week, with Grade "A" Large quoted at 66-67½ cents per dozen, and Mediums at 58-59½ cents. An improved demand for small eggs has raised the price of Grade "A" Smalls one cent to a quotation of 48-49½ cents per dozen, while Grade "B" Large eggs are unchanged at 59-60½ cents.

There's plenty of poultry, but less demand — especially for young chickens. Broilers, fryers, and roasters are all selling at lower prices; broilers are down 2 cents per pound on both live and dressed weights; colored fryers are 1-cent lower; and colored roasters are 2 cents less on live weights and 1-cent lower on dressed weights.

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